NORTH CAROLINA Farm Report
COOPERATIVE CROP REPORTING SERVICE

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No. 124 RALEIGH, N. C. DECEMBER 19, 1952

DECEMBER 19, 1952 GENERAL FARM REPORT

GENERAL CROP SUMMARY

The final outturn of major crops was considerably better than the prospects which existed during the abnormally hot and dry growing season. Most crops, especially tobacco and hays, responded quickly to rainfall the last of July. Tobacco took a "second growth" and harvesting operations were delayed from two to four weeks, resulting in one of the latest seasons of record.

The average yield per acre of all flue-cured types and burley tobacco is below last year, although better than average yields were obtained. Record yields were set in the case of peanuts and all hay. The yield per acre of corn was reduced more than any other grain when compared with last year. The per acre yield of cotton and sweetpotatoes is slightly higher than last year, while the yield of soybeans is the same as last year.

Weather conditions through mid-November were unusually favorable for harvesting cotton and peanuts.

The lack of rainfall during October and part of November delayed land preparation for the seeding of small grains. The lack of sufficient moisture also reduced stands of small grains in some areas.

The acreage, yield, production and value of all crops in North Carolina and the United States appear in the tables on pages 2 and 3 of this report.

SWEETPOTATO PRODUCTION UP

In 1952 North Carolina produced 3,900,000 bushels of sweetpotatoes, an increase of 12 percent over the revised 1951 production of 3,478,000 bushels but the second smallest sweetpotato crop produced in the State since 1871.

The 1952 crop was harvested from 39,000 acres. This was 2,000 acres more than the record low 37,000 acres harvested last year, but still the second smallest sweetpotato acreage harvested since records began in 1868.

Growers realized an average yield of 100 bushels per acre, up 6 bushels from the 1951 yield, but 6 bushels below the 1941-50 average yield

NORTH CAROLINA COTTON CROP ABOVE AVERAGE

The 1952 cotton crop is estimated at 560,000 bales. This estimate is based on reports from growers as of December 1 and census ginnings to December 1. The current estimate is 10,000 bales above that of November 1. Production of 560,000 bales is 18,000 bales or 3.3 percent more than the 1951 crop of 542,000 bales. The 1952 crop exceeds the 1941-50 average crop by 37,000 bales or 7.1 percent.

Lint yield per acre is currently estimated at 380 pounds. This compares with the 1951 yield of 376 pounds and the 1941-50 average yield of 341 pounds.

North Carolina growers will harvest 705,000 acres this year. This is 15,000 acres or 2.2 percent more than the 690,000 acres harvested last year, but 3.3 percent less than the 1941-50 harvested acreage of 728,000 acres.

Prolonged hot and dry weather during the growing season reduced yields in most areas. The hot-dry weather caused bolls to open prematurely and these were lost due to rot. The current crop is shorter in staple than usual and this is attributed primarily to the unfavorable weather conditions.

As of December 1, total production of cotton in the United States is estimated at 15,038,000 bales (500-pounds gross weight). A crop of this size would be smaller than that produced last year by 106,000 bales but 3,263,000 bales or 27.7 percent larger than the 10-year (1941-50) average crop.

DROUTH CUTS CORN PRODUCTION

Corn production in North Carolina totaled 56,176,000 bushels this year, the smallest crop since 1945. The 1952 crop compares with 67,611,000 bushels produced in 1951 and the 10-year (1941-50) average of 59,560,000 bushels. Production this year was harvested from 2,203,000 acres for an average yield of 25.5 bushels per acre. Last year, an average yield of 31.0 bushels was taken from 2,181,000 acres. Extensive dry and hot weather last summer cut corn production drastically, particularly in many Piedmont and Mountain Counties.

HAY YIELD HIGHEST OF RECORD

Despite unfavorable weather conditions during June and July, the 1952 average yield for all hay was the highest of record for North Carolina.

The 1952 crop was harvested from 1,227,000 acres with an average yield of 1.08 tons per acre. This compares with an average yield of 1.01 tons harvested from 1,195,000 acres a year earlier.

Total production at 1,325,000 tons -- almost 10 percent larger than the 1951 production of 1,209,000 tons -- was the third highest of record for the State, being exceeded only in 1945 and 1948.

All hay crops, and particularly lespedeza and alfalfa, responded quite well to the rains which broke the summer drouth around August 1, alfalfa growers obtained two heavy cuttings after that date. Lespedeza which had made little growth prior to the rains also made abundant growth, as did weeds and crabgrass. As a result, the tonnage of material harvested from the lespedeza acreage far exceeded earlier expectations, though quality generally is somewhat below normal.

1952 YIELD OF PEANUTS SETS NEW RECORD

The 1952 per acre yield of peanuts is estimated at 1,450 pounds. This compares with the 1951 yield of 1,350 pounds and exceeds the previous record yield of 1,430 pounds set in 1940.

Total production of peanuts picked and threshed is 8.9 percent less than last year, while the harvested acreage is 15.2 percent less than 1951.

Weather conditions during the planting and germinating season were ideal and unusually good stands were obtained. Relatively dry weather during the first and second cultivation and the first hoeing made conditions ideal for the control of grass and weeds, resulting in one of the cleanest crops in recent years. Generally, weather conditions were more favorable for peanuts than for any other crop, especially in the commercial producing counties. Vines grew to better than average size and weather conditions were favorable during the pegging period.

Weather conditions during the current harvesting season have been unusually favorable. Part of the crop was dug, stacked, threshed and sold without any rain.

MILK PRODUCTION SEASONALLY LOWER

Milk production in North Carolina totaled 125 million pounds during November. This compares with 122 million pounds produced during November 1951 and the 1941-50 average for the month of 111 million pounds. Production in October of this year amounted to 135 million pounds.

Meanwhile, national production during November was 7.8 billion pounds as against 7.6 billion pounds in November 1951 and the 10-year November average of 7.7 billion pounds. U. S. production in October 1952 totaled 8.6 billion pounds.

PECAN CROP UP 5%

North Carolina's pecan crop of 2,546,000 pounds was 5 percent larger than the 2,435,000 pounds produced in 1951 and the preceding 10-year average of 2,414,000 pounds.

Production of improved varieties at 2,340,000 pounds compares with 2,190,000 pounds harvested in 1951 and the 1941-50 average of 2,164,000 pounds.

The demand for tobacco for cigarette manufacture in this country is expected to continue strong in 1953. Cigarette output in 1953 is expected to go above the record 430 billion estimated for 1952.

COMMERCIAL VEGETABLE PRODUCTION DOWN, VALUE UP

Production of commercial vegetables (excluding strawberries and Irish Potatoes) totalled 139,700 tons in 1952 -- a decline of more than 11 percent from the 157,800 tons produced in 1951. The decrease in production results primarily from an 8 percent reduction in harvested acreage. Production of all crops except late spring snapbeans, beets cantaloups and late fall cabbage was smaller in 1952 than a year earlier.

Despite the rather unfavorable growing season, yields realized this year were higher than in 1951 for late spring snapbeans, cantaloups, watermelons, cucumbers, lettuce, peas and tomatoes.

The value of North Carolina's 1952 commercial vegetables totalled $11,742,000 -- almost 9 percent more than the 1951 value of $10,785,000. The unit value of all vegetables except late spring snapbeans, lettuce and late fall cabbage was higher in 1952 than a year earlier. See table below.

N. C. FLUE-CURED CROP 7.5 PERCENT BELOW LAST YEAR

Total flue-cured tobacco production in North Carolina during the 1952 season is estimated at 904,320,000 pounds. This is the third largest flue-cured crop of record, being exceeded by the 1946 crop of 913 million pounds and the record 1951 crop of 978 million pounds.

The estimated 1952 flue-cured production of 904,320,000 pounds is 73,320,000 pounds or 7.5 percent less than the record 1951 crop.

Flue-cured growers harvested 738,000 acres this year which is the same as the acreage harvested last year. The 1941-50 average acreage harvested is 645,300 acres.

The average 1952 flue-cured yield estimated at 1,225 pounds compares with 1,325 pounds last year and the 1941-50 average of 1,120 pounds.

Weather conditions during the growing season were unfavorable for tobacco. Extended dry weather and abnormally high temperatures during June and July reduced yields and lowered quality of leaf. High temperatures caused leaves to scald and the first barning, in many instances, consisted primarily of "sun-ripened" leaves.

Rainfall over most of the State on July 30 to August 2 caused tobacco to take a "second growth". In many areas this was the first time sufficient rain had been received to dissolve the original application of fertilizer under or to the side of the plants. Plant growth following these rains was very rapid especially in the Middle and Old Belts. The lack of sufficient rainfall during the growing season resulted in one of the latest harvesting and marketing seasons in recent years. Some of the Old Belt markets will be opened in January.

Burley production in the State is estimated at 19,520,000 pounds from 12,200 acres. This is 1,830,000 pounds or 7.6 percent less than last year. The estimated burley yield of 1,600 pounds per acre compares with the record 1951 yield of 1,750 pounds.

NORTH CAROLINA COMMERCIAL TRUCK CROPS - 1951 AND PRELIMINARY 1952

CROPS AND UNITS	ACREAGE HARVESTED 2/			YIELD PER ACRE			PRODUCTION			PRICE		VALUE 3/	
	AVERAGE 1941-50	1951	1952	AVERAGE 1941-50	1951	1952	AVERAGE 1941-50	1951	1952	1951	1952	1951	1952
	- ACRES -			- UNITS -			- THOUSANDS -			- DOLLARS -		1,000 DOLLARS	
FOR FRESH MARKET:													
LIMA BEANS..... Bu.	1,950	1,600	1,500	54	60	60	103	96	90	1.80	3.00	173	270
SNAP BEANS, ALL..... Bu.	13,540	13,700	12,450	90	88	77	1/1,220	1,204	1,022	1.98	2.42	2,391	2,473
LATE SPRING..... Bu.	5,860	5,700	5,700	74	70	75	1/ 426	399	428	2.05	2.00	818	856
LATE SUMMER, WEST..... Bu.	6,540	7,000	6,300	110	105	90	1/ 727	735	567	1.95	2.75	1,433	1,559
EARLY FALL..... Bu.	1,140	1,000	450	58	70	60	1/ 67	70	27	2.00	2.15	140	58
BEETS..... Bu.	300	280	300	202	250	250	62	70	75	3.10	3.20	217	240
CABBAGE, ALL..... Tons	8,320	9,300	9,200	6.1	5.5		1/49.3	1/56.3	50.5	50.08	62.89	2,554	3,176
LATE SPRING..... Tons	1,710	2,300	1,900	5.9	6.5	5.0	1/ 9.1	1/15.0	9.5	23.30	95.00	266	902
LATE SUMMER, WEST..... Tons	4,150	4,200	4,500	5.2	6.5	6.0	1/27.3	1/27.3	27.0	41.10	53.10	1,052	1,434
LATE FALL..... Tons	2,460	2,800	2,800	6.6	5.0	5.0	12.9	14.0	14.0	88.30	60.00	1,236	840
CANTALOUPS..... 70 Lb. Crt.	5,530	4,300	3,900	5.1	40	45	323	172	176	1.90	4.00	327	704
CORN, SWEET..... 50# Sacks	-	9,400	8,900	58	95	75	-	1/ 893	668	1.05	1.85	735	1,236
CUCUMBERS..... Bu.	5,150	5,200	4,100	78	75	85	1/ 402	390	348	1.50	3.35	585	1,166
LETTUCE..... L.A. Crt.	1,220	1,300	1,500	97	120	125	1/ 120	156	188	4.25	3.50	663	658
GREEN PEAS..... Bu.	1,440	350	250	56	70	80	1/ 75	24	20	2.20	2.30	53	46
GREEN PEPPERS..... Bu.	3,220	4,600	3,500	152	140	125	486	644	438	.90	4.25	580	1,862
EARLY IRISH POTATOES..... Bu.	32,100	16,500	17,000	171	220	185	5,394	3,630	3,145	1.25	2.45	4,538	7,705
STRAWBERRIES .....24 Qt. Crt.	3,530	2,600	2,100	81	95	90	1/ 299	247	189	6.90	8.20	1,556	1,550
TOMATOES..... Bu.	3,190	2,400	2,200	68	85	80	218	204	176	1.30	4.00	265	704
WATERMELON..... Melon	11,600	9,200	8,700	206	200	205	2,385	1,840	1,784	284.00	445.00	523	794
FOR PROCESSING:													
SNAP BEANS..... Tons	2,030	2,000	2,700	1.4	1.6	1.6	2,500	3,200	4,300	107.90	176.40	345	758
CUCUMBERS..... Bu.	7,230	12,000	11,700	82	86	75	598	1,032	878	1.25	1.40	1,290	1,229
TOTAL FRESH MARKET 4/ ..... Tons	-	61,630	56,500	-	-	-	-	157.8	139.7	-	-	10,785	11,742

1/ Includes some production not marketed and excluded in calculating value. 2/ Acreage for harvest, including any partially harvested or not harvested because of low prices or other economic factors. 3/ Values are for the marketing season or crop year and should not be confused with calendar year incomes. 4/ Excludes Irish potatoes and strawberries.

ANNUAL SUMMARY - ACREAGE, YIELD AND PRODUCTION OF CROPS 1951 REVISED AND 1952 PRELIMINARY

CROP	UNIT	ACREAGE HARVESTED			YIELD PER ACRE			PRODUCTION			SEASON AVE. PRICE 1/		VALUE OF PRODUCTION 2/	
		AVERAGE 1941-50	1951	1952	AVERAGE 1941-50	1951	1952	AVERAGE 1941-50	1951	1952	1951	1952	1951	1952
NORTH CAROLINA		THOUSAND ACRES			UNITS			THOUSANDS			DOLLARS		1,000 DOLLARS	
GENERAL CROPS														
ALL CORN	BU.	2,253	2,181	2,203	26.5	31.0	25.5	59,560	67,611	56,176	1.70	1.80	114,939	101,117
CORN, FOR GRAIN	BU.	2,184	2,107	2,075	26.4	31.0	25.5	57,692	65,317	52,912	-	-	-	-
CORN, FOR SILAGE	TON	18	22	29	9.3	10.5	8.5	167	231	246	-	-	-	-
CORN, FOR FORAGE	-	51	52	90	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-
WHEAT	BU.	435	392	396	15.4	23.0	21.0	6,693	9,016	8,316	2.10	2.05	18,934	17,048
OATS, FOR GRAIN	BU.	341	385	373	27.6	35.5	34.0	9,495	13,668	12,682	.89	.93	12,165	11,794
BARLEY, FOR GRAIN	BU.	38	35	43	25.0	36.0	32.5	938	1,260	1,398	1.33	1.35	1,676	1,887
RYE, FOR GRAIN	BU.	29	15	15	11.6	14.0	15.0	330	210	225	2.20	2.40	462	540
SORGHUM, FOR GRAIN	BU.	11	33	43	25.8	30.0	27.0	290	990	1,161	1.43	1.76	1,416	2,043
SORGO SIRUP	GAL.	9.0	4	3	69.0	65.0	72.0	616	260	216	2.20	2.50	572	540
COTTON, LINT	LB.	728	690	705	341	376	380	3/ 523	3/ 542	3/ 560	.388	.370	105,019	103,600
COTTONSEED	TON	-	-	-	-	-	-	214	228	232	69.20	71.00	15,778	16,472
TOBACCO, FLUE-CURED	LB.	645.3	738	738	1,120	1,325	1,225	722,736	977,580	904,320	.535	-	522,950	-
TYPE 11	LB.	252.3	290	290	1,049	1,170	1,160	267,016	339,300	336,400	.513	-	174,061	-
TYPE 12	LB.	316.8	356	356	1,159	1,435	1,280	368,522	510,860	455,680	.551	-	281,484	-
TYPE 13	LB.	76.2	92	92	1,137	1,385	1,220	87,198	127,420	112,240	.529	-	67,405	-
TYPE 31	LB.	9.7	12.2	12.2	1,420	1,750	1,600	14,098	21,350	19,520	.542	-	11,572	-
IRISH POTATOES, ALL	BU.	78	44	44	126	145	124	9,572	6,380	5,456	1.31	2.50	8,358	13,640
SWEETPOTATOES	BU.	65	37	39	106	94	100	6,850	3,478	3,900	3.14	3.40	10,921	13,260
LESPEDEZA, FOR SEED	LB.	159	122	128	195	180	260	31,180	22,000	33,300	.128	.170	2,816	5,661
HAY CROPS														
ALL HAY	TON	1,259	1,195	1,227	1.01	1.01	1.08	1,266	1,209	1,325	31.10	33.00	37,600	43,725
ALFALFA	TON	24	64	70	2.08	2.00	2.05	52	128	144	-	-	-	-
CLOVER & TIMOTHY	TON	89	108	106	1.14	1.10	1.10	102	119	117	-	-	-	-
LESPEDEZA	TON	499	484	518	1.09	.95	1.10	544	460	570	-	-	-	-
SOYBEANS	TON	163	123	127	1.11	1.20	1.05	180	148	133	-	-	-	-
COWPEAS	TON	54	21	26	.89	.85	1.00	47	18	26	-	-	-	-
PEANUTS	TON	249	215	181	.63	.75	.75	157	161	136	-	-	-	-
GRAINS	TON	89	80	96	.96	1.00	1.00	86	80	96	-	-	-	-
OTHER HAY	TON	92	100	103	1.06	.95	1.00	98	95	103	-	-	-	-
SORGHUM FORAGE	TON	15	13	12	1.92	1.90	1.80	28	25	22	23.00	24.00	575	528
LEGUMES														
SOYBEANS:														
GROWN ALONE		392	445	432	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-
INTERPLANTED		310	184	153	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-
EQUIVALENT SOLID		547	537	508	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-
HARVESTED FOR BEANS	BU.	243	309	290	12.8	16.5	16.5	3,142	5,098	4,785	2.59	2.70	13,204	12,920
GRAZED OR PLOWED UNDER		142	105	91	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-
COWPEAS:														
GROWN ALONE		92	40	46	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-
INTERPLANTED		192	74	84	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-
EQUIVALENT SOLID		188	77	88	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-
HARVESTED FOR PEAS	BU.	40	18	20	4.8	5.0	5.0	186	90	100	4.72	4.50	425	450
GRAZED OR PLOWED UNDER		94	38	42	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-
PEANUTS:														
GROWN ALONE		293	247	210	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-
PICKED & THRESHED	LB.	276	237	201	1,090	1,350	1,450	299,494	319,950	291,450	.121	.115	38,714	33,517
FRUITS & NUTS														
APPLES, COM'L CROP	BU.	-	-	-	-	-	-	1,090	1,269	2,053	1.75	2.20	2,221	4,517
PEACHES, TOTAL CROP	BU.	-	-	-	-	-	-	1,867	1,806	1,648	1.85	2.60	3,341	4,285
PEARS	BU.	-	-	-	-	-	-	202	154	172	1.80	1.90	277	327
GRAPES	TON	-	-	-	-	-	-	4.1	3.2	2.7	125.00	160.00	400	432
PECANS, ALL	LB.	-	-	-	-	-	-	2,414	2,435	2,546	.244	.246	595	626
IMPROVED	LB.	-	-	-	-	-	-	2,164	2,190	2,340	.250	.250	548	585
SEEDLINGS	LB.	-	-	-	-	-	-	250	245	206	.190	.200	47	41
UNITED STATES					UNITED STATES									
CORN, ALL	BU.	86,909	80,736	81,359	34.7	35.9	40.6	3,011,652	2,899,169	3,306,735	1.66	1.57	4,813,520	5,193,570
WHEAT, ALL	BU.	63,354	61,492	70,585	17.2	16.0	18.3	1,084,664	980,810	1,291,447	2.11	2.09	2,073,645	2,699,275
OATS	BU.	39,667	36,525	38,643	33.0	36.2	32.8	1,310,736	1,321,288	1,268,280	.823	.839	1,087,396	1,064,070
BARLEY	BU.	12,315	9,436	8,264	24.9	26.9	27.5	306,127	254,287	227,008	1.24	1.41	315,270	319,158
RYE	BU.	2,294	1,710	1,385	12.1	12.5	11.5	28,095	21,301	15,910	1.53	1.77	32,647	28,233
BUCKWHEAT	BU.	387	201	161	17.3	16.6	19.6	6,640	3,340	3,163	1.40	1.48	4,673	4,671
COTTON, LINT	LB.	21,020	26,687	24,995	267.6	271.9	288.4	3/ 11,775	3/ 15,144	3/ 15,038	.3788	.369	2,867,668	2,774,230
COTTONSEED	TON	-	-	-	-	-	-	4,781	6,286	6,108	69.30	70.00	435,891	427,746
HAY, ALL	TON	74,536	74,442	74,664	1.36	1.45	1.40	101,072	107,991	104,424	23.00	25.20	2,481,005	2,630,059
HAY, WILD	TON	14,188	14,382	14,621	.88	.84	.75	12,539	12,145	10,935	-	-	-	-
SORGHUM, FOR GRAIN	BU.	7,100	8,487	5,089	18.4	18.9	16.4	132,598	160,195	83,316	1.32	1.65	211,929	137,313
SORGHUM, FOR FORAGE	TON	6,491	4,660	5,005	5/ 1.46	5/ 1.39	5/ .89	5/ 9,561	5/ 6,455	5/ 4,441	20.00	25.20	129,360	111,785
SORGHUM, FOR SILAGE	TON	766	802	706	6/ 6.25	6/ 7.01	6/ 5.38	6/ 4,767	6/ 5,623	6/ 3,801	-	-	-	-
SORGO SIRUP	GAL.	141	45	41	63.0	62.9	63.3	8,765	2,831	2,595	1.97	2.22	5,581	5,766
LESPEDEZA SEED	LB.	900	639	646	192	198	190	174,187	126,270	122,480	.119	.169	15,089	20,687
SOYBEANS, FOR BEANS	BU.	10,349	13,545	14,075	19.4	20.9	20.7	202,068	282,477	291,682	2.73	2.82	769,926	823,881
COWPEAS, FOR PEAS	BU.	736	338	292	5.8	6.0	5.9	4,186	2,033	1,709	4.12	4.39	8,379	7,500
PEANUTS, FOR NUTS	LB.	2,940	2,009	1,513	708	834	902	2,042,448	1,675,955	1,365,000	.104	.110	174,878	149,762
POTATOES	BU.	2,401	1,334	1,398	180.4	240.3	248.6	414,525	320,519	347,504	1.63	2.28	522,190	793,732
SWEETPOTATOES	BU.	625	314	326	93.0	91.7	86.6	57,703	28,796	28,292	3.05	3.32	87,807	93,887
TOBACCO, FLUE-CURED	LB.	957.6	1,113.1	1,114.3	1,103	1,304	1,227	1,064,300	1,451,905	1,367,591	.524	-	760,516	-
ALL TYPES	LB.	1,630.1	1,782.9	1,775.5	1,124	1,307	1,243	1,841,869	2,330,787	2,207,477	.511	-	1,190,963	-
APPLES, COMMERCIAL	BU.	-	-	-	-	-	-	4/ 10,380	4/ 110,660	4/ 92,696	1.78	.500	180,094	1,103,337
PEACHES, ALL	BU.	-	-	-	-	-	-	4/ 68,186	4/ 63,627	4/ 62,746	2.02	2.03	124,491	124,306
PEARS, ALL	BU.	-	-	-	-	-	-	4/ 30,306	4/ 30,028	4/ 30,744	2.43	1.67	72,537	51,251
GRAPES, ALL	TON	-	-	-	-	-	-	4/ 2,808	4/ 3,390	4/ 3,160	40.00	38.60	135,560	122,086
PECANS, (10 STATES)	LB.	-	-	-	-	-	-	123,206	154,895	123,638	.197	.220	30,460	27,260
IMPROVED	LB.	-	-	-	-	-	-	54,026	86,660	60,361	.216	.253	18,702	15,292
SEEDLINGS	LB.	-	-	-	-	-	-	69,180	68,235	63,277	.172	.189	11,758	11,968

1/ *Received by farmers.*
2/ *The values shown are for the crop year and should not be confused with calendar year income.*
3/ *Bales of 500 pounds gross weight.*
4/ *Includes some quantities not harvested.*
5/ *Dry weight.*
6/ *Green weight.*

FARM REPORT

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GRAIN SORGHUM ACREAGE ALL TIME HIGH

Grain acreage accounted for 74 percent of the 58,000 acres of all sorghum harvested in 1952. The 1952 record high all sorghum acreage represents an increase of 8,000 acres over last year and 3,000 acres over 1931, the previous record year. Tar Heel farmer harvested an all time high 43,000 acres of sorghum for grain this year, an increase of 10,000 acres over the record set in 1951. The remaining 15,000 acres was comprised of 3,000 and 12,000 acres for sirup and other purposes respectively. This compares with 4,000 and 13,000 acres for sirup and other purposes in 1951.

The acreage of sorghum for other purposes is the lowest since 1939, when only 11,000 acres were harvested.

Sorghum sirup production continued its downward trend, with only 216,000 gallons produced this year as compared to 260,000 gallons in 1951.

Grain sorghum output continued to increase with the 1952 production of 1,161,000 bushels exceeding last year's crop by 171,000 bushels. The ability of sorghum to withstand long summer drouths has been the main reason for increasing popularity of the crop, especially in the dryer sections of the State.

SOYBEAN PRODUCTION SECOND HIGHEST OF RECORD

North Carolina's 1952 soybean production, of 4,785,000 bushels, ranks second to last year's revised record high production of 5,098,000 bushels. This year's average yield of 16.5 bushels was the same as that realized in 1951. However, the 290,000 acres harvested in 1952 was 19,000 acres or 6 percent less than the 309,000 acres harvested the preceding year.

Drouth conditions that prevailed during June and July, although damaging, were not as severe in the heavy producing soybean areas as in other sections of the State. Weather conditions were very favorable during the time of harvest, thus aiding the housing operations.

SMALL GRAIN YIELDS AND PRODUCTION DOWN

Total production of small grain crops in North Carolina during 1952 amounted to 22,621,000 bushels, of which there were 12,682,000 bushels of oats, 8,316,000 bushels of wheat, 1,398,000 bushels of barley and 225,000 bushels of rye. Total production of small grains in 1952 was 6.3% or 1,533,000 bushels less than in 1951.

Yields for oats, wheat and barley were slightly below the record 1951 yields, while rye was just above the 1951 yield. Dry weather during the fall of 1951 hindered small grain seeding and resulted in below normal stands. However, favorable weather conditions during the growing and harvesting season helped yield prospects considerably. With the exception of barley which was hit hard by smut there was little or no loss due to disease or insects.

The harvested acreage of oats decreased 3.1 percent while that of wheat and barley increased 1.0 and 22.9 percent respectively over last year. The harvested acreage of rye was unchanged from the previous year.

NOVEMBER EGG PRODUCTION HIGHER THAN LAST YEAR

November egg production in North Carolina totaled 84 million eggs compared with 83 million eggs produced in November, 1951 and 88 million for October, 1952. For the year so far (January through November) production has totaled 1.2 billion eggs compared with 1.1 billion eggs produced during the same period last year.

Number of eggs laid per 100 layers increased from 936 during November of last year to 954 the past November. There were 8,809,000 layers on hand last month and 8,896,000 in November, 1951.

U. S. egg production for November totaled 4.5 billion eggs against 4.4 billion eggs in October, 1952 and 4.3 billion eggs in November, 1951.

IRISH POTATO CROP SMALLEST SINCE 1925

North Carolina's 1952 irish potato crop was the smallest produced in the State since 1925. The 5,456,000 bushels produced this year represent a drop of over 14 percent from the revised 1951 production of 6,380,000 bushels.

This year's crop was harvested from 44,000 acres, the same as the 1951 harvested acreage. However, the average yield of 124 bushels per acre was 21 bushels below the yield realized a year earlier.

The decrease in yield is attributable to rather poor stands, resulting from unfavorable weather at planting time as well as the drouth conditions which prevailed over the State during June and July.